

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 30 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th July 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjivī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rājshāhye Sambād"	Rājshāhye ...	.....	
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhavanīpore ...	.....	
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....	
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ...	.....	
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawābgunge, Barrack-pore. ...	.....	
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhavanīpore, Calcutta ...	.....	
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	18th July 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....	19th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....	
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ...	.....	24th ditto.
14	"Bardwan Prachārikā"	Bardwan ...	165	
15	"Bardwan Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	.....	23rd ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	21st ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	19th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	24th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca ...	300	17th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rajshahye... ..	.....	17th ditto.
21	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	
22	"Pratikar"	Ditto ...	235	19th ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinī, Rangpore ...	250	23rd ditto.
24	"Sādharanī"	Chinsurah ...	516	21st ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	22nd ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	20th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhavanīpore ...	700	22nd ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	19th to 25th July 1878.
31	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	20th to 25th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	20th to 25th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....	
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	
36	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	19th July 1878.
37	"Barrisal Vartābāha"	Barrisal ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	20th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mazufferpore ...	.....	
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	24th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
41	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta ...	250	

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 18th, 1878.

WE make the following extracts from an editorial in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 18th July, headed "Changes in Europe":—The treatment Turkey has received at the hands of European Sovereigns has led us to the conclusion that sincerity has no place in the diplomatic transactions of the present day. Self-interest now constitutes the basis of all statesmanship; and this is sought to be promoted with great care and astuteness by resorting to devices, and throwing all honesty overboard. Those that guide the fate of empires never deviate from this consideration. Not to speak of other Powers, the action of England has struck us with surprise. It was from an expectation of aid from England, if not at her instigation, that Turkey rejected the preliminary overtures of Russia, and met her on the battle-field. She fought with truly unexampled courage; but when, in her hour of danger, she cast an imploring look towards England, that Power cruelly turned her face away. If the Premier had not from the first secretly influenced the counsels of Turkey, it is probable she would never have made a rupture with Russia on the strength of her own resources.

BHARAT MIHIR.

2. Referring to the taking of Cyprus by England, this paper remarks:—England and Russia had settled their plans before they appeared at the Congress. An Exhibition of dexterity and diversion might perhaps be a better name for it. Its morality has really rendered us speechless. The little that remained of Turkey after her spoliation by Russia was divided between Austria and England; and all the bluster and parade of Lord Beaconsfield has ended in the robbery of a poor Power. Who knew that diplomacy had so far deteriorated? We are not sorry that Turkey has fallen. We admit that the Turk was an oppressor, and made an invidious distinction between the conqueror and the conquered, between the Moslem and the Christian. We do also know that no Government can endure, which continually practises oppression on its subjects, and that oppression is the invariable precursor of a fall. The moans and sighs of the injured are carried by the winds to the gods, and work the ruin of Empires. We are not therefore sorry that, through the operation of an infallible law of Nature, Turkey has been brought to its present condition. We are rather glad than otherwise that Bulgaria and other provinces have regained their independence after long centuries of subjection; but the spectacle of the guile practised by Lord Beaconsfield has filled us with regret. The example will be exceedingly demoralizing.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 22nd, 1878.

3. Adverting to the scene in the House of Lords between Lords Salisbury and Derby, the *Som Prakāsh*, of the 22nd July, thus concludes an article on the results of the Congress:—It is a matter of exceeding regret that persons of such elevated positions should, before the House, accuse each other of uttering falsehoods. Certain actions of the Indian and Home authorities had long before this made us look on them with a degree of suspicion. What sort of people they are is being now gradually found out. It is to be regretted that through error they have adopted that as true statesmanship which it is not. That can never be sound statesmanship which is divorced from reason, justice, and morality. Our rulers should remember that Rome flourished only so long as her politicians abided by these virtues.

BHARAT
SANSKARAK,
July 19th, 1878.

4. Referring to the arguments used in England as to the payment of the expenses of the Indian Contingent, and also to Mr. Gladstone's article on the subject in the *Nineteenth Century*, the *Bhārat Sanskarak* remarks that

this country would derive great benefit, if benevolent Englishmen brought Indian matters before Parliament; for ever since the conquest of this country, England has been ruling it with a degree of self confidence, and there are very few indeed who have undertaken to bring the state of the poor subjects to the notice of Parliament; when any such attempt has been done, the motion has been lost through want of support; though it is expected that Mr. Gladstone may succeed in bringing about a better relation between England and India. This country has hitherto had to pay all expenses of the troops sent hence to foreign lands; and we wish the question settled as to whence the cost of the Indian Contingent to Malta is to be paid. We have no representatives, as England has in Parliament, to debate on the money supply or finances of India; but hope that a law will be enacted, making England responsible for the cost of troops sent hence to Europe.

SAHACHAR,
July 22nd, 1878.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 22nd July, has an editorial headed, "Russia has outwitted the British ministers." It is observed that Lord Beaconsfield's mission has proved a failure. Russia has out-witted him. The treaty concluded between the Powers is really humiliating. England, although she is the ally of Turkey, has not been ashamed to take a share of the spoils; but although put off for the present, a war between Russia and England must take place within the next ten years. Lord Beaconsfield has done wrong by consenting to an increase of Russia's power; and has cast a stain on the fair fame of England by taking Cyprus at her instance. The British possessions are already so extensive that this acquisition will be but as a drop in the ocean.

6. In commenting upon the policy adopted by Lord Beaconsfield at the Congress, the *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 23rd July, expresses his regret at being unable to approve of it. Russia has succeeded in obtaining the greater part of her demands, while England has taken Cyprus; thus materially contributing to the dismemberment of Turkey. The large expenditure incurred by Lord Beaconsfield in making a military demonstration has been to no purpose; for the successes of Russia, instead of lessening the chances of an invasion of India, have rather increased them. The occupation of Cyprus, again, has been a measure of questionable wisdom; for while, in case of a Russian invasion of this country, the small force stationed at the island will be of no effective help, the cost of their maintenance there will prove a heavy financial liability. The policy of Lord Beaconsfield has been a failure.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
July 23rd 1878.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

7. Adverting to the proposal made by the Madras Government to appoint a native as a Judge in the Madras High Court, the *Bhárat Mihir* makes the following observations:—The Duke of Buckingham is as liberal in his views as he is noble by birth. When the liberty of the Native Press was taken away, the European officers of Government unanimously echoed the sentiments of Lord Lytton and Sir Ashley Eden; and not one of them could be found who, remembering that he was an Englishman, was willing to protest against the poisoned error of the superior authorities. The views of the ruler of Bengal were echoed by all other Governors and Commissioners; and they, with one voice, assured Lord Lytton of the great necessity that had arisen of curtailing the liberty of the Vernacular Press. Even Sir Richard Temple, who had not before regarded a single vernacular journal as disloyal, joined in the demand. The Duke of Buckingham alone kept himself aloof from this general current of error; and though alone, had the courage to speak

BHARAT MIHIR.

the truth. It is the same person who, from the first appearance of famine in Madras, adopted a humane policy of relief, which was, however, retarded in its execution by the ungenerous conduct of the Supreme Government; and this wounded his feelings and occasioned the death of thousands.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
July 19th, 1878.

8. The *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 19th July, writes the following in its opening paragraph.—We ask Sir Ashley Eden to waste a little of his valuable time in pondering over the consequences of the trials and the procedure adopted in the cases of Fuller, Heenan, Weston, MacGregor, Meyers, White, Moula, and the Rájá of Púri.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.

Vernacular newspapers do not desire
evil to Europeans.

9. The same paper thus repels the charge brought against vernacular newspapers as a body, that "they are gratified whenever any evil befalls a European." "There could not be a greater error than this. If we are gratified at any evil befalling a European, with whom shall we then live in India? If Europeans be thus unkind towards us, then we have no place where we may breathe freely. That in cases like these, we occasionally address any observations to the Judge and Government, is for their good and in the interests of the public; for the number of cases of murder by Europeans and of ruptured spleens is continually on the increase. A few righteous decisions in such cases would make them afraid to commit this offence. If, on the other hand, deaths of this description were all attributed to a rupture of the spleen, no one would have the courage to work in the houses of Europeans for fear of that contingency happening; other evils also would follow. We therefore ask that there should be just judgment. And is it for this that we are to be regarded as desiring evil to the Europeans?"

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA.

10. In order to enable them, says the same paper, to keep themselves free from the errors and defects which disfigure the writings of the vernacular journals, and against which Government has but recently warned them, it behoves the authorities to supply Native Editors with trustworthy official information as regularly as they are furnished to the conductors of the English papers. For this purpose an order should be passed for providing them, at the public expense, with the *Calcutta Gazette*, the *Weekly Report on Native Papers*, and other public documents published by Government.

PRATIKAR,
July 19th, 1878.

Natives ignorant of their rights and
slow to assert them.

11. In an editorial headed, "Wherein does our misery lie?" the *Pratikár*, of the 19th July, observes that the cause of the miseries of the people of this country is not to be found in the fact of their subjection to a foreign power, which is not an uncommon occurrence in the history of every nation at some period or other of its existence, but rather in the ignorance of their rights as individuals and citizens and their slowness to assert them. On the slightest opposition people are found to give up their most valuable privileges, without making any effort to retain them. This weakness in the native character is much to be deplored. The Editor illustrates his remark by referring to cases of ignorant, as well as educated persons, who generally act in the manner above indicated.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
July 20th, 1878.

Reformation of criminals.

12. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 20th July, contains a long article on the Reformation of Criminals. We give the substance. The object of all punishment being to reform the criminal and deter him from committing any injury upon society, it is to be regretted that the cruel treatment of prisoners

in the jails by Government produces quite the contrary results. Far from turning better men and useful members of society, the hardships they endure in their place of confinement, and association with hardened criminals, make them worse characters than before. The subject demands the closest attention of the rulers, who cannot too soon adopt means for the reclamation of those that fill the public prisons.

13. One Kedár Náth Pál, writing to this paper from Guráp, under date 7th July, complains of an increase of drunkenness in Burdwan and Hooghly, caused by Government having introduced the out-still system into the former of those districts. We give below his letter: By increasing the excise duty, a two-fold advantage was obtained, viz. a decrease in the number of those using spirituous liquors, and a simultaneous expansion of the excise revenue; and it was consequently hoped that the duty would be still further enhanced. It is, however, to be regretted that Government has introduced the out-still system into the Burdwan district, and has resolved on its extension to Hooghly. The revenue will not probably suffer from the introduction of this measure. But how does Government mean to prevent the utter ruin that will come upon the country, when the vendors are thus enabled to manufacture a large quantity of spirituous liquor at a cheap rate? There is an out-still in the village of Keotará, in thana Selimábad, of the Burdwan district. Many from thanas Dhane Kháli and Pandua, of the Hooghly district, repair to it; and are supplied with liquor which they also bring with them to their respective villages. While at the Government distillery at Bhástará a bottle of liquor costs one rupee, at the Keotará out-still the same quantity, of a stronger quality, costs from five to six annas. The shop in this place is frequented by drunkards from villages ten or twelve miles distant, and frequent breaches of the peace are the result. The high price of liquor had for some time made it impossible for the inhabitants, high or low, to use it; but now that it is cheap, they have again taken to drinking. The country is being deluged with liquor. Even the peasants have begun to procure it in exchange for rice.

14. According to the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 20th July, there is no force in the arguments of those who advocate the continuance of the present arrangement under which Assam constitutes a separate Chief Commissionership. There has been little improvement effected in that province ever since it was separated from Bengal; and it is far behind the latter in material prosperity and the intellectual condition of its inhabitants. Under these circumstances, a re-amalgamation with Bengal is desirable on all grounds.

15. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 21st July, carries on a long controversy with the *Som Prakash*, which urges on Government the desirability of introducing a permanent settlement with the cultivators of the soil. The *Dacca Prakash* is opposed to this, and employs arguments the same as those noticed in paragraph 12 of our last Report.

16. In an article communicated to this paper, the writer describes the corruption and bribery which prevail in the police, and the oppressions committed by its underlings on the people, and fears that this state of things will continue to exist until Government shall, by raising the salaries of the police officers, place them above the reach of temptation, and induce educated young men to seek admission into this branch of the public service.

The out-still system introduced into Burdwan; the increase of drunkenness.

SULABHA SAMAGHAR,
July 20th, 1878.

Re-amalgamation of Assam with Bengal desirable.

HINDU HITASHINI,
July 20th, 1878.

A permanent settlement with the ryots.

DACCA PRAKASH,
July 21st, 1878.

Corruption and bribery in the police. How it may be reformed.

DACCA PRAKASH.

SADHARANI,
July 21st, 1878.

17. We take the following from the column of news in the *Sādhārani*, of the 21st July: The work of the License Tax has commenced. The assessors and clerks are parading through the town and making estimates of the income of tradesmen. Oilmen, washermen, weavers, milkmen, and others have been really alarmed. We have seen tears bursting from many eyes. A family of weavers, consisting of three male members, all brothers, had been informed that they were liable to pay the tax, for they owned three weaving machines. Upon this, the eldest pathetically remarked: "God only knows how we manage to make both ends meet. We have to procure food for ten persons twice a day; how shall we three, with our earnings, meet the expense in these hard times? For some days I have not slept at night, but worked, and have not attended to any personal comforts, lest the family should suffer any hardship. Even with all this I cannot keep myself above want, have not succeeded in changing my rags, and am not able to pay the shop-keeper, whom I owe about twenty rupees on account of supplies received from him on credit. If I do not work to-day, I shall not have wherewith to buy my food to-morrow; nor do I know what could be done should I fall sick. If I am required to pay a tax of Rs. 2, I do not know where I shall get it." Thus saying he began to weep. This is no tale.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 22nd, 1878.

18. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 22nd July, contains a long editorial headed—"Owing to the errors of the rulers we are unhappy." We give the substance. The British Government is liberal and kind, and seeks the good of the people. The system of administration is, in many respects superior to that which obtains elsewhere. Government seeks by all means in its power to confer benefits upon the subjects, and protect them from oppressions. Still we are not happy and are constantly complaining. But why is this? Is it because it is our habit to grumble for grievances, no matter whether they are real or imaginary, or because we are ungrateful? The fact is, neither is true. We have a real cause of grief, which Government, in spite of its good intentions, has never taken the trouble to find out. It is to be found in the errors and shortcomings of the rulers, from which they can never be entirely free so long as they are human. These errors may be briefly mentioned. Unmindful of the fact that the work of administration is an exceedingly difficult one, Government entrusts it to young and inexperienced Englishmen, fresh from England, whose only recommendation would seem to be that they have passed a prescribed examination in mathematics and law. The hasty and overbearing disposition of these men soon makes them dislike the people who, on the slightest provocation, are reported as disloyal. A second error lies in the rulers placing excessive confidence in them. Those at the head of the administration generally form views and opinions on the representations, too often incorrect, of these inexperienced officers in the mofussil. Another is, that the rulers seem to think that a Government of force is the best system of administration. Consequently this is gradually coming into vogue. Government should seek to avoid all these errors if it really desires to make us happy.

SAHACHAR,
July 22nd, 1878.

19. Although we are willing to admit, says the *Sahachar*, of the 22nd July, that the system of Honorary Magistrates is working well in certain places, still, as a body, these men have become a laughing-stock with the public. Most of them are wanting in any knowledge of the elements of law, not to speak of their inability to conduct a trial. Where Honorary Magistrates are selected from the ranks of clerks, native doctors, compounders, litigious *gāntidārs*, or mukhtears, there is no end of inconvenience to the public. There

are frequent complaints made against them. They too often import private animosities into their work. We do not object to the system, but ask that really educated and respectable men only should be appointed to the office of Honorary Magistrate.

SAHACHAR,
July 22nd, 1878.

20. The same paper complains that the object for which rural sub-registry offices were established in the country is largely frustrated through the incompetency of those who are entrusted with the work of registration. The responsible and arduous character of the work, and the low rate of remuneration allowed to the Sub-Registrars, have led the pensioners, who were at first appointed to this office, to give it up; and a number of incompetent men have succeeded them. The consequence of this has been that cases of forgery have become frequent. The writer suggests the abolition of the rural sub-registry offices, and asks the Lieutenant-Governor to direct a searching examination of the documents registered therein. A case of forgery recently tried by the Judge of Burdwan is given with fulness of detail.

21. Adverting to the circular issued to the Editors of Vernacular Papers by the Government of Bengal, under Act IX of 1878, in which they are informed that it is not the intention of Government that the provisions of the law should remain a dead letter, the same paper remarks:—The friendship which formerly existed between the native community and Sir Ashley Eden is no more; and it is idle to seek to re-establish it now. We must, however, regard him with respect as a Governor and as a representative of Her Majesty; although we shall never accept the definition of loyalty given by him that any strictures made on the acts of the Lieutenant-Governor or of the Magistrates subordinate to him, constitute disloyalty to Her Majesty. What has he, or any one under him, to do with the Sovereign?

SAHACHAR.

EDUCATION.

22. The *Hindu Ranjika* complains that people content themselves with placing their children in schools, but never take the trouble to spend even a little time in the formation of their characters; that is left entirely to the schools; where, again, no books of morality are to be found in the curriculum of studies; and this may account for the low tone of morality in our educated youths. Again, it is to be observed that, with all the high priced books now used for education, students of the present day attain to a much lower standard than the *pre-University* men; the fault lies with the officials in the selection of books, and forcing on so high a standard of education, that it deteriorates the mental and physical capacities of the lads. With reference to the Minor Scholarship standard, it is to be remarked that its object in granting a two-years' scholarship to be held in a zillah school is not effected; because that standard does not include the subject for the Entrance examination; so that the boys cannot reach the highest class of the zillah school. In this matter, those holding Bengali scholarships have a great advantage over the minor scholarship-holders. A change is required therefore in the studies of the latter, so as to assimilate them as closely as possible to the Entrance examination course.

HINDU RANJIKA,
July 17th, 1878.

23. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 21st July, complains that the Education Department is exceedingly indifferent to the interests of the Vernacular and Minor Scholarship examinations. The subjects fixed for examination, the text-books, the questions, the examiners, and the results of the examination are all open to objection. Boys of tender years are perplexed by

SÁDHÁRANÍ,
July 21st, 1878.

attempting to comprehend the truths of chemistry, an impossible task in a village school without a laboratory, of statics, dynamics, hydrostatics, and a number of other subjects which can never be mastered in the space of a year. The matter should receive the attention of the authorities.

SADHARANI,
July 21st, 1878.

24. Another, writing to the same paper, dwells on the decline, as an educational institution, of the Calcutta Government Pathshala ever since it was placed under the supervision of the head of the Calcutta Normal School. There is considerable mismanagement in this school: the promotion of teachers is regulated by favoritism, while that of boys is determined by considerations other than those regarding their merit. The Director of Public Instruction is asked to enquire into the matter.

SADHARANI.

25. Another gives the details of a case, in which he comments on the delay which takes place in the Education Department in passing the pay bills of the teachers in mofussil schools.

Delay in passing the pay bills of teachers.

FAMINE.

BHARAT MIHIB,
July 18th, 1878.

26. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 18th July, thus writes regarding the state of the crops and the condition of the people in Eastern Bengal:—Almost all the letters we have received this week conclude by asking "what is to be done this time?" The only hope of the peasant, and of the country generally, lay in the early rice crop. That, however, has been laid under water before their eyes by four days' continuous rain; and the *amun* seedlings, too, have shared the same fate. And why should not this cause despondency? In many places rice sells at Rs. 4 a maund. This increase in the price of food-grains will enhance the distress which had already manifested itself. We do not say that the *amun* crop has been destroyed all over the country; but, as regards the *aus*, there is no hope of it in many parts of Eastern Bengal. Nor do the prospects of the *amun* at all affect the markets; for five months must pass away before it is reaped. It is the early crop only that might afford prompt and speedy relief. How often, at this time of famine prices, shall we trouble ourselves with enquiries about the condition of a country, where the greater part of the population cannot earn even eight annas a day, although there is no family which has less than five members, and of whom one only is the bread-winner? The Editor then proceeds to observe that a famine in India has a meaning different from what it has elsewhere. Here it is not a lack of food-supply which causes distress: it is the extreme and chronic poverty of the people; and their inability to purchase food at high rates. All government will be impossible, and the people, too, will be quite helpless, should this state of things continue.

BHARAT MIHIB.

27. The same subject is continued in another article. Should there be again a famine, it is probable that railways and canals will have the first place as relief works. The License Tax has been imposed for purposes of famine relief; and the people might be convinced of its usefulness, if only the proceeds be applied to the construction of railways, and such other works as might furnish employment to large numbers during a period of scarcity. In Mymensingh and its neighbourhood, the prices are very high this year; and, in view of this fact, there could not be a more opportune time than the present for commencing the work of the Dacca and Mymensingh Railway. We would therefore ask Government to do this before the present year closes. The permanency of famines in this country has really alarmed us; and the question how they might be prevented is exercising the popular

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mind. How long will Government be able to endure all this expenditure? Or what is the extent of relief that it is possible to grant? Government put forth all its efforts in coping with the Madras famine; and yet three millions of people died of starvation. An erroneous impression seems to have been produced in the minds of the people, from the succession of calamities which have befallen the country ever since the Queen assumed the title of Empress of India, namely that the title has not been auspicious. Although we are prepared, for different reasons, to accept this conclusion, still we cannot agree with the people in believing that, because calamities have come in the wake of the imperial title, therefore the former are the necessary consequences of the latter. It is, however, no use quarrelling with popular impressions. What wonder that, in the presence of poverty, death, and distress, different views should be entertained as to how they have been brought about? Although it is a mistake to suppose that famines have had any connection with the assumption of the imperial title, still it is a fact that they have followed that event. We, however, believe that famines are a necessary consequence of the expensive system of administration which at the present time obtains in the country. A poverty-stricken country like India cannot afford to pay for such an expensive Government, and ought to have one which is suited to it. If the recurrence of famines is to be effectually prevented, attention should first be directed to the principles of the administration. This may excite the smile of Government, but this is our honest conviction on the subject, and we have stated it for a long time past. What other country, except India, has its wealth drained to a foreign land? What other country has such a highly paid public service, or incurs such an enormous amount of expenditure?

28. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 20th July, dwells on the distress that prevails among the respectable middle classes of the people in the villages of Eastern Bengal, owing to the gradual rise in the price of food-grains. Correspondents writing to this paper from Náráyangunj, Furreedpore, Mymensingh, Burrisal, Commillah, Noakholly, and Chittagong all describe in pathetic language the hardships occasioned by this cause. Rice sells at 8 to 10 seers a rupee; crimes have increased in number; and many are obliged to go without food for days together.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
July 20th, 1878.

High prices and distress in Eastern Bengal.

29. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 21st July, regrets that the Commissioner of Dacca has refused to entertain the memorial made by the local *Shubha Sádhiní Sabhá* for the application of a portion of the surplus funds of the late famine towards the purchase of stores of grain, and selling them at a low rate to the inhabitants, among whom there exists considerable distress. It is not wise to wait till the *aus* crop comes into the market; for, in the first place, it is exceedingly problematical whether there will be any good *aus* crop this time, and in the second, even if the outturn is fair, the prices are not likely to go down before the present month has closed. But in the meantime the distress will be severe, and cases of deaths from starvation not rare. For the last seven or eight months rice has sold at almost prohibitive rates; and the people have spent all they had laid by in purchasing food. Considering that the distress at the present moment is severer than what it was in 1874, when relief operations were set on foot in Dacca, the authorities should lose no time in using means for its alleviation.

DACCA PRAKASH
July 21st, 1878

Need of opening relief works in Dacca.

30. The *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 22nd July, is opposed to the appointment of Mr. Cunningham to the Presidentship of the Famine Commission on the ground of his ignorance of the economic condition of the country, and

The Famine Commission.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
July 22nd, 1878.

would suggest the nomination of the Hon'ble Mr. Robinson, of the Madras Council, to this office. The latter gentleman possesses a large amount of local experience, which will prove invaluable to the Commission. The Editor fears that the answers to the questions recently circulated by that body will in most cases, as is usual, be obtained in the first place from the village chowkeedar, and transmitted through proper official channels. The members are asked to undertake a tour to the afflicted localities, and make enquiries on the spot; for there are things to be learned which no amount of correspondence will probably ever make clear.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 23rd, 1878.

31. The *Samachar Chandrika*, of the 23rd July, advises Government to appoint a number of competent and educated natives to the Famine Commission. Their

services will prove more valuable than those of English officers totally unacquainted with the condition of the country and its people. Some of the questions asked by the Commission really excite a smile, on the ground of the ignorance betrayed by their framers.

BISHWA DUT,
July 24th, 1878.

32. The *Bishwa Dut*, of the 24th July, remarks that the recurrence of famines, the high price of food, and the pressure of taxation have made the condition of the people one of extreme hardship. It

is to be regretted that Government has introduced the License Tax in these hard times. The Editor asks Government to lower the price of rice by stopping its exportation, and to abolish a number of taxes by making a reduction of public expenditure.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
July 24th, 1878.

33. The Editor and a correspondent of the *Gramvarta Prakashika* dwell on the high prices that prevail at the present time, and the distress occasioned by it

to the mass of the people; and observe that the License Tax should not be introduced now.

LOCAL.

HINDU HITASHINI,
July 20th, 1878.

34. In its columns of news, the *Hindu Hitashini*, of the 20th July, notices a scarcity of copper coins in Dacca. It would be difficult to procure five rupees

worth of pice, even if one was willing to pay discount at the rate of half a pice or a pice in the rupee. New copper coins have not been seen within the last two or three years; and it is therefore no wonder that there should be such scarcity as we have referred to. It behoves Government to attend to the matter.

BEHAR BANDHU,
July 24th, 1878.

35. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 24th July, complains of the want of good drinking water in the place, owing to which sickness prevails. The municipality is asked to excavate a tank into which the water from the Ganges might percolate.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
July 19th, 1878.

36. The *Education Gazette* does not agree with the views of Dr. Macleod, who would attribute the frequency of the crime of suicide amongst native females to the intense distress arising from unavoidable widowhood. It appears, however, that there are more cases of suicide amongst married women than widows. The real cause may be found in the system of early marriages. Young wives are often impatient of control, and kill themselves.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 27th July 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.